

REMARKS

In light of the following remarks and above amendments, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 2-9 and 12-17 and amended claims 1, 10 and 11 are in this application.

At paragraph 2 of the outstanding Office Action of April 23, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kono et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,187,589). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1, recites in part, “A video recording apparatus comprising: composite video image generating means for generating reduced signal video images, each comprising less than a complete screen by reducing the number of pixels to be displayed of each of a plurality of video images supplied from frames of each of a plurality of input data streams, a frame from only one of each of said plurality of input data streams being supplied at a time, and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images in a substantially non-overlapping manner...” (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that Kono teaches sending to a VTR at least two different TV signals to form a composite video signal (column 3, line 64 - column 4, line 21). In other words, the entirety of all the TV signals are provided to a mixing/separating circuit 11, where the signals are mixed together or superimposed to form a composite signal as shown in figures 3 and 5. Kono is utilizing all the data of each of the TV signals that are input into the mixing/separating circuit. As a result of utilizing all the data of every signal, Kono is also utilizing all images of all signals supplied to the mixing/separating circuit in order to achieve a final overlapped image.

Amended independent claim 1 teaches selecting a frame from only one of each of the plurality of input data streams. Thus, as is shown in figures 2 and 3A-3E not all of the data frames are used, but rather one frame is used at a time, while correspondingly timed frames from the other three data streams are not used. Claim 1 further recites that each of the images in the composite image has a reduced number of pixels. Finally, amended independent claim 1 recites that the reduced size images are placed in the composite image in a non-overlapping manner.

Kono is not concerned with selectively picking video images from several input streams to form a composite image, while maintaining an independent view of each of the images. In fact, there is no need for Kono to take only certain portions or frames of signals because the object of the invention is to simultaneously record and reproduce multiple TV signals by mixing or overlapping regular non-reduced signals and therefore needs every frame of a signal of all signals. Furthermore, Kono does not mention reducing the number of pixels to be displayed of each of a plurality of video images before forming the composite image. For example, for each image the current invention reduces a data structure of 720 dots x 480 lines to a data structure of 360 dots x 240 lines and then inserts that reduced data structure into a

composite frame. Kono is not concerned with reducing the size of any images whatsoever.

Finally, Kono is not concerned with maintaining an independent view of each composite image to accomplish the objectives of the VTR recording and reproducing device of the invention, and therefore does not present these images in a non-overlapping manner. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Kono.

Further, claims 3-5, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 16 depend either directly or indirectly for one of independent claims 1, 10 and 11 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Kono for at least the reasons previously described. Therefore, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16 are believed to be distinguishable from Kono.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

At paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action of April 23, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kono et al. in view of Nishijima (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,069). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 2 and 12 are dependent from one of amended independent claims 1, 10 and 11 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Kono for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner did not rely on Nishijima to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Kono. Therefore, claims 2 and 12 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Kono and Nishijima.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

At paragraph 5 of the outstanding Office Action of April 23, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kono et al. in view of Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,270). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 6 and 9 are dependent from one of amended independent claims 1, 10 and 11 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Kono for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner did not rely on Yamamoto to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Kono. Therefore, claims 6 and 9 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Kono and Yamamoto.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of the applicants undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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